

Should signs be posted?

Yes. "It is Illegal to smoke in this establishment" signs with the Department of Health (DOH) contact number may be downloaded from the DOH website-www.healthvi.org and placed at every entrance of and inside every public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited.



Where can I find more information?

For more information about the Virgin Islands Smoke-free Act, visit www.healthvi.org



Where can I get information on quitting?

Smokers who want to quit can call **1-800-quitnow** for free information and assistance, and or visit www.smokefree.gov



How can I report violations?

Any person may report violations to the Smoke-free HOTLINE: **(340)712-6230**



This brochure is not legal advice and is for guidance only. The information provided in this brochure is only intended to be general information summary to the public. It is not intended to take the place of either written laws or regulations.

What You Should Know About the Virgin Islands Smoke-free Act

Title 19 Chapter 53A



Virgin Islands Smoke-free Act

Effective February 10, 2011, the Virgin Islands Smoke-free Act prohibits smoking in virtually all workplaces, including restaurants and bars. The law reflects the commitment of many in ensuring that workers and the public are protected from secondhand smoke.

What is secondhand smoke?

Secondhand smoke is the smoke that is inhaled from the burning end of other people's cigarettes, pipes or cigars, and also includes the smoke exhaled from smokers that other people must breathe. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that secondhand smoke contains 4,000 substances, 43 of which are known to cause cancer in humans or animals.

The National Cancer Institute reports that secondhand smoke causes more than 35,000 deaths from heart disease and 3,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. annually.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention states that employees exposed to secondhand smoke are 34 percent more likely to get lung cancer.

Where is smoking prohibited?

The new law states that smoking is prohibited in:

- (1) Enclosed areas of public places;
- (2) Enclosed areas of places of employment;
- (3) Any outdoor service or waiting line and in, and within twenty feet from any point of any service or waiting line; and
- (4) Within twenty feet of all outdoor public transportation stations and platform shelters opened to the public.

The Act defines enclosed areas as:

A structure that has a roof and more than two substantial walls that have either: (A) No opening; (B) Has an opening that does not allow air in from the outside; (C) Or has an opening that is less than 25% of the wall's surface area

Examples of Public Places include:

- ♦ Restaurants, bars, taverns, clubs, lounges, cabarets, casinos and all other gaming facilities
- ♦ Hotels, resorts, guesthouses and inns
- ♦ All schools, public, private, parochial; universities, colleges and other educational facilities
- ♦ Laundromats, malls, shopping centers, retail stores and service establishments,
- ♦ Financial institutions; waiting rooms and lobbies of offices,
- ♦ Public libraries and restrooms,
- ♦ Bus and taxi stops
- ♦ Hospitals, healthcare facilities, nursing homes, and auditoriums

- ♦ Galleries, museums, arenas, theaters, beaches, parks, playgrounds, ticket areas, bowling alleys, skating rinks and outdoor recreational facilities

Where is smoking allowed?

The prohibition against smoking does not apply in the following areas:

- ♦ Private homes (when not used as a hospice, childcare, adult day care or health care facility) and automobiles
- ♦ Private clubs as specifically defined within the smoke-free act
- ♦ Public or private parking lots unless within twenty feet of any entrance, exit, window, ventilations system or other opening of any public place or place of employment
- ♦ Public streets and sidewalks
- ♦ Noncommercial vehicles
- ♦ Retail tobacco store (only when the primary activity is the retail sale of tobacco products and accessories, and the sale of other products is merely incidental)
- ♦ Twenty feet from enclosed areas on public parks and beaches, tents, stalls, booths, stands and benches on public parks and beaches
- ♦ Twenty feet from bleachers and grandstands